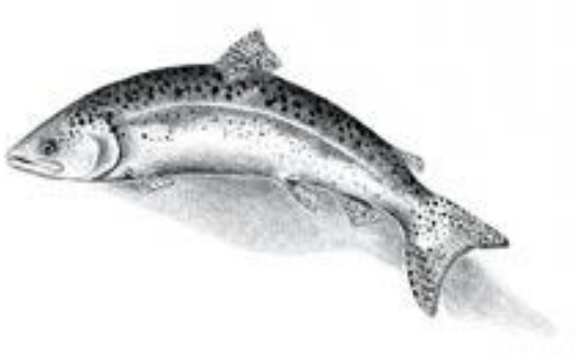
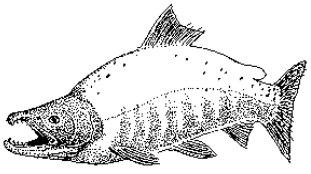
Mattole River Alliance Petrolia

Site Handbook



Watershed Stewards Project Mission

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



Sockeye Salmon

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Placement Site Information

Location

Petrolia, CA

Agency Affiliation

Mattole River Alliance (MRA)

The MRA is a joint site comprised of two non-profit organizations: the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) and the Mattole Salmon Group (MSG). The Mattole River Alliance works toward the restoration of natural systems in the Mattole River Watershed and their maintenance at sustainable levels of health and productivity, especially in regards to forests, fisheries, soil, and other plant and animal communities, with special emphasis on restoring salmon populations to self-sustaining levels.

In the late 1970s, residents of the Mattole Valley noticed a large decline in the numbers of returning salmon. Investigation led to the discovery that the salmon spawning habitat was being impacted by sediment. In 1978, residents within the Mattole River basin began proactive restoration efforts aimed at increasing salmon numbers.

After these efforts failed to produce the desired results, it quickly became apparent that salmon do not live just in streams, they live in watersheds. In order to save the native salmon runs, residents would need to care for the whole system. This led to the formation of the Mattole Watershed Salmon Support Group (MWSSG) in 1980, consisting of community members that would eventually form the Mattole Restoration Council and the Mattole Salmon Group. The Mattole Salmon Group works directly with salmon and monitoring and restoring instream habitat, while the Mattole Restoration Council focuses on public outreach, sediment reduction, and preserving and restoring native plant communities.

Since their inceptions, both groups of the Mattole River Alliance have been at the forefront of community based watershed restoration. Restoration activities in the watershed have been featured in numerous articles, books, and videos on ecological restoration, both locally and internationally. The story of the Mattole restoration movement is known as the first community-based restoration effort in the state of California. The organizations of the MRA are persistently working towards a time when restoration is no longer needed in the Mattole River Watershed.

The River & Watershed

River systems are dynamic - they are the link between erosion of upslope lands, the creation of alluvial floodplains, transport of eroded materials to the ocean, and habitats for aquatic organisms. Rivers inherently transport sediment, much of which will eventually turn into beach sand. It is this sediment that plays an important role in determining the geomorphology of the river (i.e. its shape, response to flooding, sinuosity, and habitat characteristics).

The Mattole River, in this extremely geologically active and unstable watershed, is choked with sediment, which reduces its capacity to support fish and other aquatic organisms. Before wide-scale timber harvesting, erosion happened slowly over thousands of years, and the river could transport sediment at a rate roughly equal to input of new sediment. From the1940s to the 1970s, intensive timber harvest and

other land use changes created hundreds of miles of poorly built-and later abandoned-roads, and hillsides denuded of the vegetation holding the soil in place. Combined with the floods of 1955 and 1964, many deep pools that used to exist in the river filled in, and the river channel became flatter and wider.

These changes have redefined the geomorphology of the river, and there is little we can do to bring the river back to its narrower and deeper conditions other than to help prevent sediment inputs and wait for the river to flush itself out. In response, the Council initiated the Good Roads, Clear Creeks Program in 2001 to assist landowners with sediment reduction. Based on the recommendations in the Council's 1989 report "Elements of Recovery," this is our primary strategy for assisting the river return to its pre-timber harvest condition.

The Forest

The Mattole River Watershed is largely a forested landscape, with several different forest ecotypes present: redwood, Douglas fir, mixed hardwood, oak woodlands, Sitka spruce, tanoak, and mixed conifers.

Some of the dominant hardwood trees include California Buckeye *(Aesculus californica)*, Oregon White Oak *(Quercus garryana)*, several Live Oaks *(Quercus spp.)*, Pepperwood *(Umbellularia californica)*, Tanoak *(Lithocarpus densiflorus)*, Madrone *(Arbutus menziesii)*, and, in riparian areas, Red Alder *(Alnus rubra)*, Oregon Ash *(Fraxinus latifolia)*, Elderberry *(Sambucus spp.)*, Bigleaf Maple *(Acer macrophyllum)*, Vine Maple *(Acer circinatum)*, Dogwood *(Cornus spp.)*, and several species of Willow *(Salix spp.)*.

Tan Oak

While the forests of the Mattole are diverse, three species stand out in the economic history of the place. The first of these is the tanoak, whose bark was harvested in the late 19th century for its high tannin content. Tannic acid was necessary in the process of leather making. Most if not all of the harvested material was taken out by ship, from the mouth of the river near Petrolia.

Riparian Forests

Riparian forests, those that grow along creeks and the River, are important to fisheries and riverine health as well. A healthy riparian canopy shades the watercourse and maintains cool water temperatures. In many coastal rivers, summertime water temperatures approach levels high enough to be lethal to salmonid fishes. Riparian zones act as a "buffer" between upslope lands and the river. This can work to prevent excessive nutrients and sediment from entering watercourses. Riparian vegetation also "armors" stream banks so that they can withstand high stream flows lessening the chance of eroding the banks. Fallen riparian vegetation (particularly the larger and more rot-resistant conifers) also contributes large woody debris to the river, which is important in the creation of complex habitats preferred by young salmonids.

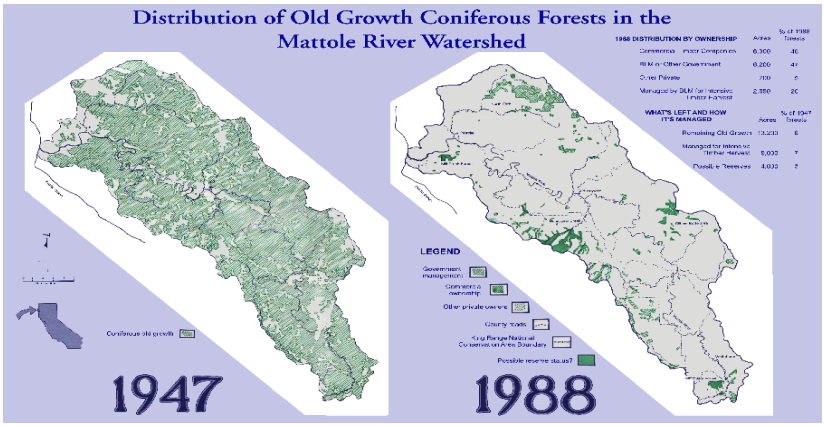
Conifers

In the Pacific Northwest of the 20th century, particularly in the post-World War II construction boom, harvest of redwood and Douglas fir has become economically important. Douglas fir is the dominant forest species in the Mattole watershed. Prior to World War II, the technology did not exist to make harvesting and transporting of logs out of the extremely steep and rugged country of the Mattole profitable. After the war, two conditions were in place to make logging of Douglas fir in the Mattole a reality: a standing-timber tax that made it economically difficult for private landowners NOT to cut trees, and the tank tread technology and heavy equipment needed to make roads and transport logs out.

From the time of the migration of Eastern settlers to the watershed, land in the Mattole

was held in large tracts primarily for ranching and orchard agriculture. The standing-timber tax forced much of the ranching community to either log their land or lose it. In 1957, Humboldt County had more sawmills than any other county in the United States. So many logs were being transported out of the Mattole that log truck drivers had to time their trips to the mill as to avoid congestion on the small roads. In the 1980s, most of the original forest had been entered for harvest, and very little ancient forest remained.

In 1988, the Mattole Restoration Council created a map depicting the ancient forest cover in 1942 and in 1988. On the next page is a picture depicting old growth forests as of 1997, which shows that of the total Mattole forestlands, only about 9% remain as ancient forest. That percentage has since dropped to less than 8%. The MRC is actively engaged in efforts to preserve remaining old growth forests.



The Prairies

Before Europeans arrived in California, grasslands looked very different then they do today. Perennial bunch grasses dominated grassland ecosystems. Bunch grasses can live up to 100 years, and are adapted to semi-arid summer conditions and geology that is unique to California ecosystems. Each year new shoots are formed out of a common fibrous root system. These bunch grasses, with their large and well-developed root systems, are excellent at holding soil on to hillsides.

Perennial grass species exist in patches in the Mattole, but have been largely supplanted by introduced annual grasses from Europe and Asia. Annual grasses complete their life cycle in one year. In the Mattole, this generally means winter and spring vegetative growth, followed by seed production in early summer. Annuals are essentially dormant through the driest parts of the late summer and fall. Because they die and dry up in the fall, annual grasslands pose a higher fire risk than perennial grasslands.

Research suggests that grasslands historically covered around 25% of the Mattole watershed. These grasslands are important economically, particularly for cattle and sheep ranching, and other agricultural operations.

Last year, the Mattole Restoration Council completed a project comparing the extent of grasslands in 1950 and 1998. According to this research, more than a third of the Mattole's grassland's have disappeared since 1950, primarily due to fire suppression which allows fir and brush to encroach on the prairie edges. To see the full report, look at centerfold of Newsletter #19.

Geology

The Mattole watershed is located in one of the most geologically active spots in North America. Three tectonic plates meet offshore, the North American, the Gorda, and the Pacific, forming the Mendocino Triple Junction. This network of faults produces many

earthquakes, including the large and devastating events of 1952 and 1992.

Rates of uplift in the King Range are among the highest anywhere in North America. The Mattole watershed is underlain primarily by young sedimentary rocks, which are highly erodible and often incompetent - easily fragmented and cracked. Soils, which are primarily of the Atwell, Boomer, Cahto, Hugo, Josephine, Kneeland, Laughlin, Los Gatos, Mattole, Maymen, McMahon, Melbourne, Usal, Wilder and Zanone series, range in depth from less than a foot on rockier ridge tops to more than six feet in bottomlands.

Source Information

All information above was taken from the Mattole Restoration Council Website (www.mattole.org) …refer to "watershed' section of the website to follow links described in text.

Description of Site Duties

Riparian Tree Planting

Riparian tree planting helps restore key riparian areas on the mainstem Mattole and its tributaries. Once the trees mature they will stabilize banks, plus provide shade and eventually large wood recruitment. The main species used is Douglas Fir trees, but in the future the riparian restoration program will include planting early successional shrubs and grasses on actively eroding landslides and stream banks.

Seedling Survival Surveys

This project monitors the effectiveness of tree planting. Plots, GPS coordinates and photo points are set up in the riparian zone prior to planting. After the plot is planted, the trees that fall within a 1/100th acre (11.8 ft) radius are documented.

Downstream Migrant Trapping

Downstream migrant trapping occurs 6 days a week during the spring and early summer months. The MSG places a 1.5m rotary screw trap in the lower river to enumerate juvenile Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead trout, as well as other aquatic species. Data is used to construct an outmigrant population estimate for salmon species.

Invasive Plant Removal

The Mattole has several noxious and invasive weeds including Scotch and French Broom, Canada Thistle, Star Thistle, Japanese Knotweed, Pampas grass and English Ivy. Most of the removal is mechanical pulling of invasive plants. Other options, like using prescribed burns to control invasives, are being explored by the MRC.

Fuels Reduction

The Mattole Watershed has an extremely high fuel load. Fuels reduction projects take place both along major roads and on private land owner's property. Fuels reduction crews have sawyers (people limbing and cutting down small overcrowded trees with chainsaws) and swampers (people dragging downed limbs to burn piles and burning them). Unless members have prior chainsaw experience, fuels reduction work will be piling and burning slash. Fuels reduction work takes place during the rainy months in fall, winter, and spring.

Sudden Oak Death Monitoring

Sudden Oak Death pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* is a concern for many California ecosystems. No Sudden Oak Death has been found in the watershed, however, it is found in areas adjacent to the watershed. Early detection is important, so the MRC, with the support of UC Cooperative Extension in Davis, has been taking samples from bay trees in areas where these waterborne oomycetes might have entered the watershed. Leaf traps with rhododendron leaves are also set out on the mainstem Mattole and several tributaries to detect Phytophtora in any of those watersheds.

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is done throughout the Mattole watershed by the MSG. Parameters monitored include temperature, pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and other nutrients and possible toxins. The goal is to monitor conditions and how they relate to healthy salmon habitat during all life stages. When pollutants are encountered, positive and adaptive relationships with landowners and residents are key to implementing land management practices that benefit both the salmon and human communities.

Native Grass/Brush Seed Collection

Establishing native vegetation is a part of many restoration projects at the MRC. The MRC strives to use native Mattole seeds for restoration projects. During the late spring and early fall crews go out to collect native grass and brush seeds in the watershed.

Nursery Work

The MRC has a native plant nursery that propagates plants to be used during restoration projects. Duties here include propagating native grass, shrub and tree species, weeding, constructing seed balls for broadcast seeding and drying and

processing seeds for storage.

Spawner Surveys

The MSG conducts spawner surveys to enumerate live adult fish, redds, and carcasses. Surveys are conducted in spatially-balances random reaches in the watershed, and occur every 7-10 days per reach. In all, surveys are conducted nearly every day during the fall and winter months. Data is collected in accordance with CA Department of Fish & Game's Coastal Monitoring Program (CMP) and used to generate population estimates for adult coho and Chinook salmon.

Juvenile Salmonid Surveys

Juvenile salmonid surveys (aka juvenile dives) consist of 2 elements – a brief habitat survey to record stream and characteristics and determine survey areas, and a comprehensive snorkel survey. Juvenile dives take place in the same areas as spawner surveys and are conducted in accordance with the CMP. Data is used to establish the distribution of juvenile coho in the watershed – a key component of determining recovery of the species – and also further identify factors that affect distribution.

Summer Steelhead Survey

The annual summer steelhead dive occurs each year in mid-July, and is hosted by the MSG. It is an entirely volunteer effort that surveys the entire length of the mainstem Mattole as well as several key tributaries. This is the only time each year that many locations are surveyed, and the effort allows access to places otherwise unseen. Much preparation is required for this intense, yet amazingly fun and rewarding effort.

Nick's Interns

During the summer, the MRC hires several high school age interns to work on various projects. There is an opportunity to lead activities with the interns.

Channel Monitoring

Permanent cross-sections have been set up in several tributaries to monitor sediment and stream bed morphology in the watershed. This project entails going out to these established benchmarks and collecting data.

Instream Habitat Restoration

Instream habitat restoration is conducted by the MSG. Activities include placing large woody materials in the channel to provide shade, cover, scour, and/or flow refuge. Activities are focused in the estuary and headwaters of the Mattole.

GRCC

The Good Roads Clear Creeks program of the MRC addresses many of the upslope sediment sources in the watershed by doing everything from large projects like replacing culverts that would otherwise wash out delivering cubic tons of sediment to the Mattole, putting in willow baffles, to smaller manipulation of stream beds to take pressure off eroding banks and constructing willow fences. Throughout the summer months there are opportunities to work with GRCC on various projects.

Newsletter & Outreach

The MRC puts out a biannual newsletter that members can assist with through writing articles and helping with the layout. Both organizations maintain websites and other media outreach avenues that WSP assist with updating. Additionally, WSP are encouraged to help out at the local summer community festival, Roll on the Mattole, to provide outreach about salmon and healthy watersheds, as well as the AmeriCorps WSP program to community members.

Grant Writing

There are opportunities at both organizations to get grant writing experience with the. Please remember that WSP members are not permitted to contribute to grant proposals submitted to federal agencies.

GIS

The MRC has an extensive GIS program. Currently staff members are working on setting up geo-databases to manage and map data. There are opportunities to learn the basics and expand on any previous knowledge to take on larger mapping tasks.

General Calendar of Duties at MRA Petrolia

Mentor(s): Kate Cenci, Monica Scholey

Fall				
	Location	*Site Duties*	*Work Load*	*Typical Work Hours*
October	Field/Office/ Classroom	Real Science, Channel Monitoring, Spawner Surveys, Native Seed Collection, GIS	Moderate/Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
November	Field	Spawner Surveys, Native Grass Planting	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Winter				
December	Field	Spawner Surveys, Native Grass Planting	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
January	Field	Spawner Surveys, Invasive plant removal, Riparian Tree Planting, Seedling Survival Surveys, Fuels Reduction	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
February	Office	Spawner Surveys, ISP, Riparian Tree Planting, Sudden Oak Death Monitoring	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Spring				
March	Field/Office/ Classroom	Nursery Work, Sudden Oak Death Monitoring, SRF, Cottonwood Collection/Cottonwood Planting, ISP, Real Science, DSMT prep, Grant research, data analysis	Moderate/Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
April	Field/Office	DSMT (Downstream Migrant Trapping), Sudden Oak Death Monitoring, Real Science, Invasives Removal, grant research, data analysis	Moderate/Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
May	Field/Office	DSMT, Creek Days, Education Opportunities, GIS, outreach opportunities, snorkel survey prep	Moderate/Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Summer				
June	Field	DSMT, Juvenile Salmonid Surveys, Instream Habitat Enhancement, Native grass collection/propagation, Hoopa Fish Fair, WSP Spring Training, water quality monitoring	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
July	Field	Summer Steelhead Dives, Juvenile Salmonid Surveys, Native grass/brush seed collection, Willow Fence construction, GRCC projects, Nick's Interns, Roll on the Mattole, ISP	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
August	Field/Office	Seedling Survival Surveys, Juvenile Salmonid Surveys , Channel Monitoring, GRCC projects, Instream Habitat Enhancement	Busy	8 hours/day
Ongoing Duties:	Office	Website and media outreach updates, creating outreach materials		

There are some site duties that the MRA expects assistance with, particularly certain field work tasks. Individual projects, office, outreach and education opportunities vary from year to year based on member experience and interest. There is a lot of flexibility in the form and content of members' schedule. A clear idea of interests, self motivation and willingness to jump into projects are necessary for this site.

WSP Member Information

Education

Education Notes

MEEP The Mattole Ecological Education Program offers environmental education to local students throughout the year. There are opportunities to accompany or design lessons for field trips and classroom visits.

Classrooms In the Mattole, class sizes are small and often multi-aged. It is important to bring in a new perspective, and often new curriculum, because these students have probably had more environmental education than most other school districts. At the same time, the level of understanding that these students can bring to the classroom allows members to take Real Science and other lessons to new and innovative levels.

Site / Region Specific Education Resources

Schools in the Watershed Mattole Elementary/Middle School, Triple Junction High School, Mattole Valley Charter, Honeydew Elementary and Honeydew Home-school (both held at the same location), Ettersburg School, Whitethorn Elementary School and Whale Gulch Elementary/Middle School.

- Upriver Schools: (farther from Petrolia)
  - Whale Gulch: 1.5 hours from Petrolia; 707-986-7131
    - Cietha – 1st/2nd
    - Leah Fanucci 3rd/4th
  - Whitethorn: 1.25 hours from Petrolia; 986-7420
    - Erica (2nd-3rd)
    - Eric and Victoria Shafer (K-1)
  - Ettersburg: 1 hour from Petrolia; 986-7677
    - Jennifer Kubik (K-3rd)
- Downriver Schools: (closer to Petrolia)
  - Honeydew: 40 minutes from Petrolia; 629-3230
  - Mattole Triple Junction High School: Petrolia 629-3250
    (This placement is the least likely, although if a team is insistent, they could run this by the current science teacher—Shannon Rinehart
  - Mattole Elem School: Petrolia 629-3240

- Ed Team Leader should inform Petrolia members that *Real Science* can be flexible for them. A field partner pair still must have 2 classrooms but the structure of the 6-visit sessions can be modified. For example – during a year when members are placed at upriver schools, they could schedule both schools on the same day and maybe turn the 6-visits into three 2-hour visits where a variety of topics are covered. The bottom line is that a salmon lesson needs to be done – both from a mission *and* pre/post test standpoint.

Otherwise, members can get creative (one year members did a native plant curriculum) with their watershed topics…..as long as members include the salmon thread throughout.

- It has been noted in the Mattole community that members may need to expand the curriculum as Real Science standards have been done quite a bit.
-
- Important Note: Always try for an equal mix of upstream and downstream schools.

ISPs and Outreach Events

ISP Information

Past Individual Service Projects

ISPs have consisted of invasive plant removal, riparian plantings, willow mat (temporary fish habitat) construction, and river cleanup. The different foci of the MSG and MRC allow for individual members to explore a diverse range of ISP possibilities. One ISP will focus on restoring instream habitat while the other will focus on riparian and upslope restoration. Planting usually takes place in the fall and winter, invasives removal during spring, willow mat constructing during July and river cleanup during the summer months. Mentors at MSG and MRC are a great resource for assisting with developing an ISP.

Outreach Information

MRC Resource Center

The MRC resource center is the main outreach department. There are opportunities throughout the year to help the resource center employees with community outreach projects.

Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council and other Board Meetings

For the past two years, AmeriCorps members have served as the secretary for the Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council. Taking notes at these meetings provides insight into the fire ecology and fire safe issues in the Mattole, as well as community needs and how they can be addressed. It also provides a valuable service to the Fire Safe Council and the Mattole Valley.

Other organizations sometimes need someone to take notes. Volunteering at meetings gives members a chance to learn about restoration projects going on in the valley and the sentiments of the local community.

Calendar of Outreach Events for Site / Community (Optional)

Roll on the Mattole

Honeydew Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser held in July.

MRC Annual Celebration

This is an annual fundraising and membership party. The restoration work of the MRC is celebrated with various events, dinner, and music. This year the event will be held on November.

All Mattole Pot-Luck

This is an event that takes place at the Mattole Grange in September or October. There is a food contest of food made from all local sources.

Watershed Festival

This is an event put on by Sanctuary Forest that takes place upriver in Whitethorn.

The Rye and Tide

This event is a race from the North Fork bridge to the beach. It involves switching from running to biking at least 6 times with a partner. This event happens in October.

Continuing Activities

MRC holds volunteer days occasionally
Mattole Valley Historical Society has volunteer opportunities
Attend events in Arcata/Eureka area
Get involved with river or creek mouth cleanup
Support other WSP members ISPs

Regional Events

March: SRF Conference
April: Klamath River Clean-up*
May: Kinetic Sculpture Race
June: Salmon Aid*
July: Salmon River Dives, Smith River Dives, Chinook Symposium
August: Humboldt County Fair, Coho Confab
October: Weaverville Salmon Festival*

*Northern or Southern Region event, obtain approval from Project Manager to attend

Phone Lists and Bulletin Boards:

NEST List: phone numbers for the greater Petrolia area
Mattole Valley Bulletin Board: http://groups.google.com/group/mattole?lnk=srg
Posts community events, ride shares etc…
Petrolia Store and Honeydew Store: bulletin boards of community events

Media Outlets

Google Groups: Mattole Valley Bulletin; Petrolia Store Bulletin Board
Where to send PSAs:
Local TV Station: brenda@kwptfm.com
Arcata Eye: editor@arcataeye.com
North Coast Journal: ncjournal@northcoastjournal.com
The Independent: indie@asis.com
Redwood Times: sgardner@redwoodtimes.com
KHUM Radio: info@khum.com
KMUD Radio: psa@kmud.org

Where to post events on community calendars:

www.humboldtmusic.com/calendar/index.cfm?C_id=1&Add=1
www.northcoastjournal.com/calendar/submitcalendar.php
www.khum.com/gtg_entry_form.html
http://groups.google.com/group/mattole?lnk=srg

Community Resources

Community Demographics

Petrolia is a rural town of about 400 people located on the Lost Coast (a rollercoaster one hour drive off the 101). The community ranges from ranchers and long-time "back-to-the-landers" to young homesteaders and restoration staff. The "downtown" area is comprised of the Petrolia Store, Post Office, Volunteer Fire Department, and a payphone booth. Humboldt agriculture is a popular form of income and many residents also promote sustainability in the valley by farming their own produce, meat, and eggs. Several former WSP members continue to live in Petrolia and are an excellent resource on the MSG and the Mattole. The winters are quiet and quite rainy while the summer is full of activity and sunshine (when it's cloudy in "town," Petrolia is usually full of sun). Events are usually open to the entire community and posted at the Petrolia Store.

Housing

Rentals: MRA has secured housing in downtown Petrolia, within biking or walking distance from both the MRC and MSG. Rooms are single occupancy, but the house is shared with other members and interns, with a large community kitchen, common room, and gardens. Members must still pay for housing, but at a significantly reduced cost than otherwise available. Of course, members can still opt to secure housing on their own, and the Petrolia area offers many unique opportunities.
Camping: BLM Mattole Beach Campground, A.W.Way County Park, Honeydew Campground
Lodging: Lost Inn 629-3394

Services

Computers and solar power systems: Charlie Solo
Doctors: Dick Scheinman (accepts AmeriCorps insurance)
Auto repair: Cedar
Bike repair: Cedar
Anything repair: Cedar
Plumbing: Brian Jahnke
Mattole Valley Bulletin Board on Google groups: This is a great way to let the community know members are looking for housing, a ride into town, or anything that members need that others might have or to offer help members, or stuff to sell or get rid of. It is the main means of advertising events in the valley.

Entertainment

Venues

Mattole Valley Community Center (MVCC), downtown Petrolia
-weekly yoga, aikido, and dance classes
-hosts community meetings
-live music and events, including Cabarets

Mattole Grange (The Grange), Petrolia, on the way to Honeydew
-monthly pancake breakfasts and farmers market
-live music, including Roll on the Mattole, some MSG events
-school plays, other events

The Yellow Rose (The Rose), Petrolia, north end of downtown
- pool table, juke box, cards, dice, food

Petrolia Store, downtown Petrolia
-bulletin board: local info, advertising, announcements
-lunch sandwiches, BBQs, basic groceries, movies, gas, propane (usual hours: 9:00am – 5:30pm

Events

Cabarets: Local talent showcase presented in an open-mic/talent show format. Cabarets occur 3-4 times per year at the MVCC, proceeds benefit the MVCC and various local sponsoring groups. "Dinner and a show" involves optional homemade meal ($6-$8) and cabaret ($5, or $4 for MVCC members).

Roll on the Mattole: Annual fundraiser for Honeydew Volunteer Fire Dept., usually in late June/early July at the Grange. Live music (multiple good bands), BBQ, beer, Fireman's Muster (competition b/t local fire squads). The biggest event in the Mattole.

4th of July: Huge annual party hosted by Greg and Margie Smith (Petrolia); giant community potluck on the North side of the river. Fireworks on river bar (sometimes on July 3rd).

All Mattole Potluck: Potluck of foods from only the Mattole Valley in the fall.

Rye & Tide: Annual bike/running race that takes place during October. Partner teams take turns riding bike and running, race starts at Yellow Rose and ends at the beach with BBQ and bonfire.

Thanksgiving: Large community potluck feast hosted by Hugh and Darlene, not to be missed.

Christmas Parties: Freeman's Solstice Party, Dick's White Elephant Party, potlucks abound during the holidays, which are quite festive.

Volleyball: Wednesdays at 6:00 Mattole Elementary School
Yoga: Tuesdays at 10:00 am, Thursdays at 5:30 pm at MVCC
Dance: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at MVCC
Basketball: Tuesdays at 5:30 at the Mattole Elementary School.

Other Entertainment

Hiking: Mill Creek Trail (1/4 mile east down Lighthouse Road from MSG office), Lost Coast Trail, Windy Point, King Peak Trail, Sinkyone Wilderness (Visit the BLM website for more information: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/arcata/kingrange/index.html.)
Mountain Biking: King Range

Surfing and Skating (there is a half-pipe at the community center)
Beach & tide pooling
Swimming holes: by DSMT site, AW Way
Potlucks: happen often, very fun, good way to meet folks
Bonfires: frequent and fun
Music groups
Star gazing
Bird watching
Yellow Rose
Homesteading: gardening, growing and canning things…
Volunteering for fire department

Recurring Event List

Cabaret happens about four times a year and is an experience not to be missed. Perform a skit, tell a joke or play some music and become a part of the magic.

Pancake breakfast is held once a month at the Mattole grange. All members can eat Krusteaz, eggs, sausage or ham!

Farmer's markets happen once a week during the summer.

Fourth of July Beef and Bean Extravaganza at the Mattole Grange.

Roll on the Mattole annual music festival. Benefit for the Honeydew Fire Dept. held every year in late July at the Mattole Grange.

Nearby Towns with Fun Stuff

Garberville/ Redway	Matteel Community Center: big name bands have shows here Benbow Summer Arts & Music Fest: small, awesome festival Bars, grocery, laundry Reggae festivals
Humboldt Redwoods State Park	Camping and hiking
Arcata / Eureka	Lots of bars/ music venues Groovy, natty grocery stores Laundry, Saturday Farmer's Market on the Plaza
Trinidad and North	Patrick's Point State Park Beaches, coves, lagoons